

Application No. 10/602,861

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] The inventive body panel assembly comprises an outer skin and an inner skin spaced from the outer skin. The outer skin serves as the exterior surface for a vehicle. In contrast to existing body panel assemblies, the inventive body panel assembly has an one or more energy absorbing body-bodies spaced between the outer skin panel and a one or more hard point-points of the vehicle. Consequently, an impact of a pedestrian on the body panel assembly is cushioned by the energy absorbing body.

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] A vehicle hood of the inventive design has an outer skin and an inner skin spaced from the outer skin. A cavity is formed between the outer skin and the inner skin. The one or more energy absorbing body-bodies may be received in the cavity. This design permits the energy absorbing body to be placed within the vehicle hood without taking up space under the hood and at very little cost.

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] Figure 3 illustrates an alternative design for a vehicle body panel assembly. Here a vehicle body panel assembly 32 is shown upside down with an outer skin panel 18 on the bottom and inner skin panel 22 on top. Spaced into the inner skin panel 22 are holes 40 to receive an energy absorbing body, such as a fluid reservoir 38 as shown in Figure 4.